

In the claims:

In claims 13 and 30 please delete the term "trichloroethyl" and substitute therefor --trichloroethyl--.

B¹
2. (Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of capping remaining reactive sites with a solution containing a capping reagent either immediately before said covalent linkage is oxidized or sulfurized or immediately after said covalent linkage is oxidized or sulfurized.

B²
6. (Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the solvent in step (c) is selected from the group consisting of *o*-xylene, *m*-xylene, *p*-xylene, mesitylene, and diphenyl ether.

7. (Amended) The method of claim 6 wherein the solvent in step (c) is selected from the group consisting of benzene, toluene, [and] *o*-xylene, *m*-xylene, and *p*-xylene.

B³
22. (Amended) The method of claim 21 further comprising the step of capping remaining reactive sites with a solution containing a capping reagent either immediately before said covalent linkage is oxidized or sulfurized or immediately after said covalent linkage is oxidized or sulfurized.

B⁴
24. (Amended) The method of claim 23 wherein the solvent in step (c) is selected from the group consisting of benzene, toluene, benzonitrile, *o*-xylene, *m*-xylene, *p*-xylene, mesitylene, and diphenyl ether.

25. (Amended) The method of claim 24 wherein the solvent in step (c) is selected from the group consisting of benzene, toluene, [and] *o*-xylene, *m*-xylene, and *p*-xylene.